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NAG-112

PCT SECTION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the U.S. Nationalization
Application of PCT/JP00/00073

Hitoshi SOYAMA

Application No. ~~To Be Assigned~~

Filed: June 13, 2001

For: METHOD AND DEVICES FOR
PEENING AND CLEANING METAL
SURFACE

Attn: Application Branch

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The applicant, through its representatives and attorneys, hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents identified on the accompanying Form PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

The cited documents were noted in the International Search Report (ISR) of this application. An English language copy of the International Search Report identifying the relevancy of each document is also enclosed. The cited documents were also noted in the International Preliminary Examination Report (Opinion). The copy is also enclosed. Relevant portion translated in English is as follows:

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Claims 16-22

The invention claimed in claims 16-22 do not have inventive-step based on Documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR. The invention disclosed in the Documents 1 and 2 relate to application of cavitation bubbles to peening, which are closely related each other. A person skilled in the art could have arrived [to the invention of claims 16-22] based on the surface quality modifying apparatus disclosed in Document 1 by making design change to the control means that controls pressure as disclosed in Document 2.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), no fee is required in connection with its filing.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP § 609.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: June 13, 2001

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